

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SANA 02732 292028Z

67

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
----- 038913

R 290945Z SEP 75  
FM AMEMBASSY SANA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6439  
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T SANA 2732

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: CVIS, YE  
SUBJECT/ AMCITS RELEASED FROM PDRY JAIL

REF: FBIS NICOSIA R 252116Z SEP 75

1. AS WE KNOW OF NO RPT NO USG OR OTHER OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS ABOUT RELEASE OF AMCITS KOPP AND TORHAN FROM PDRY, REF REPORT (WHICH HAS REUTERS DATELINE SANA) WAS SOMETHING OF A SURPRISE.

ONLY ASNAJ WAS INFORMED  
PUALLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS,  
AND HE HAS EXCELLENT TRACK RECORD FOR RESPECTING CONFIDENCES.

2. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT NEWS WAS LEAKED BY SAUDIS OR OTHERS HERE-- EGYPTIANS, OR KUWAITIS, FOR INSTANCE--WHO HAVE INTEREST IN CREATING IMAGE OF PDRY MOVEMENT TOWARD MODERATION.

3. QUESTION IN OUR MINDS IS WHAT DEPARTMENT PLANS TO SAY ABOUT RELEASE, AND WHEN PRESS WILL GET AT THESE MEN. TO OUR MINDS RELEASE IS CLEARLY STRIKING INITIATIVE FROM PDRY IN PURSUIT OF EARLY RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS, AND CARE SHOULD ACCORDINGLY BE TAKEN TO ASSURE THAT PRESS REPORTS PUT RELEASE IN SOME POLITICAL PERSPECTIVE RATHER THAN DWELL ONLY ON HARSH

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TREATMENT WHICH KOPP AND TORHAN RECEIVED AT HANDS OF

PDRY JAILERS. THE LATTER BY ITSELF WOULD NOT SERVE OUR LONG OR SHORT RANGE INTERESTS IN ENCOURAGING PDRY TO REORIENT ITS FOREIGN POLICY TOWARD MORE MODERATE STAND.

4. AM NOT RPT NOT SUGGESTING THAT WE DO ANYTHING TO SUPPRESS ACCOUNTS OF INHUMANE TREATMENT BY PDRY BUT BELIEVE WE SHOULD OFFSET THESE ACCOUNTS BY COMMENDING REGIME FOR RELEASE, EXPRESS HOPE THAT IMPROVED RELATIONS WILL GROW OUT OF THIS, CALL FOR TALKS TO REVIEW OTHER DIFFERENCES, REITERATE PUBLIC AND BACKGROUND STATEMENTS ABOUT OUR WILLINGNESS TO RENEW RELATIONS WITHOUT PRE-CONDITIONS.

5. IF WE CHOOSE TO DO NOTHING, EITHER PUBLICLY OR PRIVATELY ALONG THESE LINES, DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN CRITICS--THAT IS, THE SOVIETS AND RADICAL ARABS LIKE LIBYA--OF PRESIDENT ALI'S POLICY OF RAPPROACHMENT WITH US AND OTHER ARAB MODERATES WILL BE IN POSITION TO SAY HE ENGAGED IN NAIVE AND UNPROFITABLE EXERCISE.

6. WE BELIEVE THAT BALL IS IN OUR COURT, EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE CAREFULLY AND CONSISTENTLY UNLINKED HUMANITARIAN EFFORT LIKE RELEASE FROM ANY POLITICAL QUID PRO QUO. WE SHOULD BE LOOKING FOR OPPORTUNITY, AFTER DECENT INTERVAL, TO FOLLOW UP POLITICALLY.

7. FURTHER BELIEVE THAT POTENTIAL PAY OFF SUFFICIENTLY GREAT, ALONG WITH POTENTIAL FOR MISUNDERSTANDING BOTH IN SOUTH YEMEN AND IN FRIENDLY COUNTRIES LIKE YAR AND SAUDI ARABIA, THAT WE SHOULD STUDY OUR NEXT MOVES AND OUR GOALS CAREFULLY AND CONSIDER HOW AND HOW MUCH TO CONSULT WITH OTHERS.

8. REGARDLESS OF WHAT WE DO ON LARGER ISSUES--AND I THINK WE SHOULD GRASP THE NETTLE FIRMLY--I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW DEPARTMENT'S INTENTIONS ON PUBLIC INFORMATION ABOUT RELEASE OF KOPP AND TORHAN.  
SCOTES

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NNN

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**TAGS:** CVIS, YE  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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